

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 24, 1999 LB 476

be well informed of the issues surrounding responsibility and responsible ownership. In a recent survey, 67 percent of Nebraska's registered voters believe that law...that citizens who pass a criminal background check and complete a firearm safety course should have the right to protect themselves by carrying a concealed weapon outside their homes. I have heard concerns that if this bill passes, firearm ownership will skyrocket and that the application process is not thorough enough. This is not true. For example, Florida, South Dakota, Wyoming and Texas have all passed similar laws. And after the first year in these states, of the people who obtained the permit to carry, only a handful were revoked for any reason. As of 1998, in Texas, out of 165,191 permits issued, only 371 were revoked for any reason. As of January 1999, in Wyoming, out of 5,288 permits issued, only 10 were revoked for any reason. All the arguments that can be made for or against this bill, one thing stands out in my mind. There is no reason why a citizen should not be allowed to protect him or herself if that citizen has passed the application process and been trained in safe handling of a gun. Nebraskans who meet the training requirements should be allowed to protect themselves from a crime in this way. I'd also like to add that I want this bill to be revenue neutral. I've decided that the fee should be increased from \$75 for a three-year permit to \$100. This averages out to be a little over \$33 a year, up from the average of \$25 a year. I don't think that this is an excessive burden for those who want to go through the process to get a concealed weapon permit. And I don't think that other residents of Nebraska should have to contribute to the cost of that permit. Thank you for your attention and I will answer any questions that you may have.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Janssen. To open on the committee amendments, the Chair of the Judiciary Committee, Senator Brashear.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. President, members of the body, the committee amendments are extensive. I am going to try to summarize them. I anticipate that there will be a division which I believe is in the best interest of order and debate but let me use this time to indicate the breadth and scope in the entirety of the Judiciary Committee amendments. The first